Remarks

Claims 101-108 are pending. Claims 1-100 have been canceled. Claim 101 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Importantly, the claim amendments should not be construed to be an acquiescence to any of the claim rejections. Rather, the amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite prosecution of the above-identified application. The Applicant expressly reserves the right to further prosecute the same or similar claims in subsequent patent applications claiming the benefit of priority to the instant application. 35 USC § 120.

Telephonic Interview

The Applicants are grateful for a telephonic interview with Examiner Desai on Wednesday, December 13, 2006. Based on the interview, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-100, and made two amendments to claim 101. First, the definition of R in claim 101 has been amended to replace "aryl" with "5-, 6-, or 7-membered single-ring aromatic group that includes zero heteroatoms." Second, the definition of R₁ in claim 101 has been amended to replace "carbocyclic aryl" with "5-, 6-, or 7-membered single-ring aromatic group that includes zero heteroatoms." The claim amendments find direct support in the definition of "aryl" in the Specification at page 11, lines 6-7. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully contend claims 101-108 are in condition for allowance.

Fees

The Applicants believe they have provided for the required fees in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fee to our Deposit Account 06-1448 Reference SPV-048.02.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Attorney would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted, Patent Group Foley Hoag LLP

Dana M. Gordon, PhD

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 44,719

Foley Hoag LLP 155 Seaport Boulevard Boston, MA 02210

Telephone: (617) 832-1000 Telecopier: (617) 832-7000

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